

Mammoth Creek
Forest Stewardship Plan



Appendix G - Wildlife Habitat Information

NARRATIVE AND KEY FOR MAP OVERLAY-DISPLAY SYSTEM TO RANK CRUCIAL-CRITICAL, HIGH PRIORITY, SUBSTANTIAL VALUE AND LIMITED VALUE WILDLIFE USE AREAS

A ranking and display of vertebrate, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife use areas has been developed to provide input into Environmental Assessments and to promote an active awareness of wildlife needs in the face of man's increasing activities and developments on wildlands. Hopefully, improved cooperation between management and regulatory agencies, developers and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources will result in adequate protection of the wildlife resource through early identification of areas of concern.

Crucial-Critical wildlife use areas followed in respective importance by High-Priority, Substantial Value and Limited Value Wildlife use areas require protection from man's activities and developments. The processes of classifications through which these four use area types were separated are based upon four major criteria:

- 1) The classification by Utah Division of Wildlife Resources of Utah's fishing waters; and the importance of use areas to terrestrial, wildlife species of high interest.
- 2) Status of endangered species.
- 3) Status of threatened species.
- 4) Potential for reclamation and restoration of habitats and use areas; and the availability of acceptable mitigation for damage or loss to habitats, use areas and/or individual wildlife.

Procedure For Identification Of Wildlife Use Areas

Crucial-Critical Habitats and Wildlife Use Area:

"Sensitive use areas" necessary to sustain the existence and/or perpetuation of introduction of one or more species of historic or existing, "high interest wildlife" during critical periods of their life cycles. All stream sections, reservoirs, lakes and ponds identified by Utah Division of Wildlife Resources as Class 1 or 2 are classified as being crucial-critical. In addition, areas where legally defensible documentation exists to show the occurrence of a threatened species shall be classified as crucial-critical. If a judgement is made based on the state-of-the-art technology that any terrestrial or aquatic habitat, "sensitive use area" or "intensive use area" has a low or essentially zero potential for reclamation to its present habitat composition and biological productivity following a disturbance; and that restoration cannot result in a "sensitive use area" or an "intensive use area" being returned to an equal or greater pre-disturbance wildlife value, a classification of crucial-critical will be given. Also, if acceptable, permanent mitigation options are not

available, these areas shall be classified as crucial-critical. This classification shall include all habitats judged to be “highly sensitive” to surface disturbance or areas where fish or wildlife management considerations dictate that no disturbance could be tolerated by the members of the ecological assemblage present on the site. Professional opinion is that disturbance to “highly sensitive” habitats will result in irreversible changes in species composition and/or biological productivity of an area.

High Priority Habitats and Wildlife Use Area:

“Intensive use areas” for one or more species of historic or existing, “high interest wildlife.” All stream sections, reservoirs, lakes and ponds identified by Utah Division of Wildlife Resources as Class 3 are classified as being high-priority. In addition, if the potential for the occurrence of endangered species exists based on unconfirmed reports and professional judgement of wildlife biologists familiar with the area (evidence would not be legally defensible), a classification of high-priority shall be given. Documented and legally defensible evidence showing the past occurrence of a threatened species qualifies an area for a classification of high-priority. If a judgement is made based on the state-of-the-art technology that any terrestrial or aquatic habitat, “sensitive use area” or “intensive use area” has a low potential for reclamation to its previous habitat composition and biological productivity following a disturbance; however, restoration can result in an “intensive use area” or “sensitive use area” being returned to an equal or greater pre-disturbance wildlife value, a classification of high-priority will be given. In addition, if acceptable, permanent mitigation options can be implemented for the interim of disturbance, the area can be classified as high-priority. This classification shall include habitats judged to be “moderately sensitive” to surface disturbance. In addition, “sensitive use areas” and “intensive use areas” where surface disturbance or underground activities may result in subsidence that could interrupt underground aquifers, resulting in a potential for local loss of ground water and decreased flows in seeps and springs shall be classified as high-priority.

Substantial Value Habitats and Wildlife Use Areas:

“Existence areas” for one or more species of existing, “high interest wildlife.” All stream sections, reservoirs, lakes and ponds identified by Utah Division of Wildlife Resources as Class 4 are classified as being of substantial value. It should be noted that substantial value areas show an absence of endangered species, however, a potential based on the professional judgement of wildlife biologists familiar with the area exists for the occurrence of a threatened species (legally defensible evidence would not exist). If judgement is made based on the state-of-the-art technology that a moderate potential (fifty-fifty probability) for reclamation of an “existence area” to its previous habitat composition and biological productivity exists

following a disturbance; and that restoration will result in the “existence area” being returned to an equal or greater pre-disturbance wildlife value, a classification of substantial value will be given. This classification shall include “moderately sensitive habitats” and “existence areas” where acceptable, permanent mitigation options are definable.

Limited Value Habitats and Wildlife Use Areas:

“Occasional use areas” for one or more species of existing, “high interest wildlife.” All stream sections, reservoirs, lakes and ponds identified by Utah Division of Wildlife Resources as Class 5 or 6 are classified as being of limited value. It should be noted that limited value areas show an absence of endangered or threatened wildlife species. If a potential (fifty-fifty probability) for reclamation of an “occasional use area” to its previous habitat composition and biological productivity exists following a disturbance; and that restoration will result in the “occasional use area” being returned to at least an equal pre-disturbance wildlife value, a classification of limited value will be given. This classification shall include “moderately sensitive habitats” and “occasional use areas” where acceptable mitigation options are definable.

Definitions

High Interest Wildlife:	All wildlife species classified as game species, and economically important species (from either a consumptive or non-consumptive perspective) and any species of special aesthetic, scientific or educational significance, which may include all protected wildlife (reference Dalton, et al., 1977. Species List of Vertebrate Wildlife That Inhabit Southeastern Utah. Utah State Division of Wildlife Resources. 67 p.). It should be noted that threatened and endangered wildlife species are not included s high interest wildlife.
Endangered Wildlife:	Any vertebrate wildlife species identified by Utah Division of Wildlife Resources or the US Fish and Wildlife Service as being endangered with extinction (reference Dalton, et al., 1977. Species List of Vertebrate Wildlife That Inhabit Southeastern Utah. Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. 67 p.).
Threatened Wildlife:	Any vertebrate wildlife species identified by Utah Division of Wildlife Resources of the US Fish and Wildlife Service as being threatened to become endangered (reference Dalton, et al. 1977. Species List of Vertebrate Wildlife That Inhabit Southeastern Utah. Utah State Division of Wildlife Resources. 67 p.).

Sensitive Use Area:	A use area for one or more species of “high interest wildlife” that represents a critical requirement in an individual animal’s life cycle or biologically important area for a wildlife population. Examples are areas on big game winter ranges that are experiencing concentration of use; critical corridors for movement of wildlife; display, breeding and rearing areas for avifauna– strutting grounds, booming grounds and wetlands–; spawning sites; fawning, lambing or calving areas; assemblages of species or ecological units that represent unique aesthetic, scientific or educational values such as riparian zones, wetlands or other limited habitats.
Intensive Use Area:	A seasonal use area for one or more species of “high interest wildlife” that does not represent a critical requirement in an individual animal’s life cycle or a biologically critical area for wildlife population. Examples are normal and severe big game winter ranges; important feeding areas for avifauna; areas of high animal diversity and/or high animal density (note areas that annually experience concentration of wildlife use by one or more species are defined as “sensitive use areas”) and any other area that shows intensive biological use by “ high interest wildlife.”
Existence Area:	A use area where the documented occurrence on a regular basis for any species of “high interest wildlife” can be shown. These areas have a lower intensity of use that “intensive use areas.”
Occasional Use Area:	A use area where the sporadic or unpredictable occurrence of any species of “high interest wildlife” could be expected. These areas have a lower intensity of use that “existence use areas.”
Highly Sensitive Habitats:	Habitats existing on fragile soils that are limited in development due to climatic conditions. Generally speaking, these habitats are relatively low in diversity of species for flora and fauna and biological productivity. Arctic-Alpine, Hudsonian, Upper Sonoran and Lower Sonoran life zones illustrate highly sensitive habitats.
Moderately Sensitive Habitats:	Habitats existing on moderate or well developed soils. Generally speaking, these habitats are moderate to high in diversity of species for flora and fauna and biological productivity. The Canadian and Transition life zones illustrate moderately sensitive habitats.

Stipulations

Crucial-Critical Habitats and Wildlife Use Areas are to be protected from any of man’s activities or developments that would result in any destruction, loss or permanent occupancy by man or his facility

developments. Riparian and wetland habitats are a major concern. In addition, Crucial-Critical Habitats and Wildlife Use Areas are to be protected from any disturbance during specified periods of time— reference to KEY TO MAP OVERLAY-DISPLAY SYSTEM. Exceptions are accepted when authorization from Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has been secured.

High-Priority Habitats and wildlife Use Areas are to be protected from any of man's activities or developments that would result in destruction, loss or permanent occupancy of significant acreages (25 or more acres) by man or his facility developments. In addition, High-Priority Habitats and Wildlife Use Areas are to be protected from industrial and other significant activities that result in disturbance during specified periods of time— reference to KEY MAP OVERLAY-DISPLAY SYSTEM. Exceptions are accepted when authorization from Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has been secured.

Substantial Value Habitats and Wildlife Use Areas are to be protected from any of man's activities or developments that would result in destruction, loss or occasional occupancy of moderate acreages (not to exceed 25 acres) by man or his facility developments. In addition, Substantial Value Habitats and Wildlife Use Areas are to be protected from industrial and other significant activities that result in disturbance during specified periods of time— reference KEY TO MAP OVERLAY-DISPLAY SYSTEM. Exceptions are accepted when authorization from Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has been secured.

Limited Value Habitats and Wildlife Use Areas are to be protected from some of man's activities or developments that would result in destruction or loss of unreasonable acreages by man or his facility developments. Aquatic habitats that lie within Limited Value Wildlife Use Areas are a major concern. Developments by man that result in permanent occupancy of wildlands are recommended for Limited Value Wildlife Use Areas. In addition, Limited Value Habitats and Wildlife Use Areas are to be protected from some of man's activities that result in disturbance during specified periods of time— reference KEY TO MAP OVERLAY-DISPLAY SYSTEM. Exceptions are accepted when authorization from Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has been secured.

It should be noted that variances to these stipulations are anticipated and should be negotiated with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources based upon climatic conditions of individual years and other considerations on a site by site basis.